

In the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1 (previously presented). A method of preparing a metal salt of a medium-chain fatty acid, wherein the method comprises solubilizing at least one free fatty acid in solvent, wherein the solvent comprises an alcohol, wherein said free fatty acid has a chain length from six to twelve carbons; and reacting said free fatty acid with at least one metal salt, wherein the metal salt comprises at least one metal bicarbonate or metal carbonate, to produce a metal fatty acid salt.

2 (canceled).

3 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the metal salt comprises a monovalent cation or a divalent cation.

4 (original). The method according to claim 3, wherein the metal salt comprises sodium or potassium.

5 (original). The method according to claim 3, wherein the metal salt comprises calcium or magnesium.

6 (cancelled).

7 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the metal fatty acid salt is sodium or potassium caprylate.

8 (original). The method according to claim 7, wherein the metal fatty acid salt is sodium caprylate.

9 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the metal fatty acid salt is sodium or potassium caprate.

10 (original). The method according to claim 9, wherein the metal fatty acid salt is sodium caprate.

11 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the free fatty acid in solvent is at least 0.5M.

12 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, further comprising recovering the metal fatty acid salt by precipitation and filtration.

13 (previously presented). A process for quantifying the purity of a metal fatty acid salt prepared by solubilizing at least one free fatty acid in solvent, wherein said free fatty acid has a chain length from six to twelve carbons; and reacting said free fatty acid with at least one metal salt, to produce a metal fatty acid salt wherein the process for quantifying the purity of the metal fatty acid salt comprises separating product from reactants by High Pressure Liquid Chromatography (HPLC).

14 (new). The method according to claim 1, further comprising isolating the metal fatty acid salt.